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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/613,007	07/07/2003	Andreas Eleftheriou	2993-471US SC/ip	4500

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, NINH H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3745

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/613,007	<b>Applicant(s)</b> ELEFThERIOU, ANDREAS	
	<b>Examiner</b> Ninh H. Nguyen	<b>Art Unit</b> 3745	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-13, 15, 17-20, 22, 24, 25 and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 6, 14, 16, 21, 23 and 26 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/07/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claims Re-numbering***

The sequential number 12 was skipped in the claim listing filed 07/07/03. Therefore, the original claims 13-28 have been re-numbered as 12-27 according to 37 CFR § 1.126.

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 7 is objected to because of the following informalities: on line 1, after “as defined”, --in claim-- should be added. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 17-19, 24, 25, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Newcomb (2,698,711).

Newcomb discloses a gas turbine engine (Figs. 1, 2) comprising a main fluid flow path, a compressor forming a portion of the main fluid flow path (Fig. 1), at least one passage 22 for bleeding compressor air from the fluid flow path, and a compressor bleed valve system comprising a bladder 26 inflatable between at least a collapsed position and an expanded position for controlling a flow of compressor air from the main fluid flow path through the at least one passage;

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wherein the at least one passage is at least partly opened when the bladder is deflated to the collapsed position thereof, and wherein the at least one passage is closed when the bladder is inflated to the expanded position thereof (Fig. 1);

wherein the bladder 26 acts as an inflatable seal to sealingly close the at least one passage when inflated to the expanded position (Fig. 1);

wherein the at least one passage includes a plurality of spaced-apart passages 22, 24 (Fig. 1), and wherein the bladder simultaneously seals at least two of the plurality of spaced-apart passages, when inflated to the expanded position;

wherein the plurality of spaced-apart passages includes a row of circumferentially distributed passages 22 (Fig. 2), and wherein the bladder is positioned radially outwardly of the row of circumferentially distributed passages, the bladder being expandable radially inwardly towards the row of passages for controlling the flow of compressor air therethrough;

wherein the bladder is expandable radially inwardly from a support ring (lower half of ring 28) mounted between a bypass flow path and the main fluid flow path; and

wherein the bladder includes a circumferentially extending boot 26 positioned about the main flow path, the boot 26 being expandable radially inwardly to sealingly cover the at least one passage.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claims 8, 13, 15, 20, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Newcomb.

Newcomb discloses all the limitations except the bladder does not include first and second circumferentially opposite extending boot segments, each boot segment being expandable to sealingly cover a respective series of passages as claimed.

Since the applicant has not disclosed that having bladder includes first and second circumferentially opposite extending boot segments solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose above the fact that the bladder can be inflated and deflated to provide sealing for the air bleed passages, and it appears that the bladder 26 of Newcomb would perform equally well with two circumferentially opposite extending boot segments as defined claimed by applicant, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify the bladder of Newcomb by utilizing two circumferentially opposite extending boot segments as claimed.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 5, 6, 14, 16, 21, 23, and 26, due to the limitation of the boot segments are independently inflatable, are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### ***Prior Art***

The prior art made of record but not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and consists of 2 patents.

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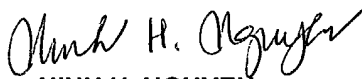
Gaubatz (2,874,926) and Jubb et al. (GB 1 357 016) are cited to axial compressors having inflatable valves for air bleed systems.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Ninh Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-0061. The examiner can be normally reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look, can be reached at (703) 308-1044. The fax number for this group is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

  
**NINH H. NGUYEN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Nhn  
August 31, 2004